



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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July 2, 2014

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **HR-0**

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*
Director of Public Works

Jerry E. Powers *JEP*
Chief Probation Officer

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM PILOT – 2014 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

On March 6, 2014, the Departments of Public Works and Probation announced to you the development and pilot implementation of the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP), an innovative job readiness program providing paid internships, education, and individual support to youth exiting the probation system. The YOP was developed in collaboration with the Chief Executive Office; Departments of Human Resources, Community and Senior Services, and Public Social Services; the Los Angeles County Office of Education; and nonprofit organizations Girls & Gangs and Soledad Enrichment Action, collectively referred to herein as "Partners."

As we previously indicated, Public Works and Probation will provide your office annual progress reports by June 30 of each year through the completion of the pilot program on June 30, 2016. This report summarizes the YOP milestones met and the goals and objectives planned for the remainder of the pilot implementation.

PROGRAM MILESTONES

Milestones met in the development and current implementation of the program includes:

- YOP Partners signed on to their respective program roles via a Memorandum of Understanding, which is currently in its final approval stages;
- Developed and launched a YOP website to facilitate collaboration between Partner agencies, allow for timely accessibility to program updates, and assist in program administration;

- Assisted a pilot cohort of two YOP participants successfully transition from probation camps and into job readiness training funded through the Workforce Investment Act; and
- Both YOP participants successfully passed civil service examinations and began their 12-month internship assignments with Public Works in May 2014.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The leading goal of the YOP is to assist Probation youth successfully transition back into their communities and become productive citizens by providing them with the skills, resources, and support necessary to join and thrive in our workforce. The YOP Partners will continue to measure the success of the program through means of achieving the following program goals and objectives:

YOP Goals and Objectives	Alignment to County Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure retention and career development by providing ongoing follow-up, assessment, and support as needed to YOP participants.	Goal 1: Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess educational and skill-building training opportunities to develop training plans aligned with entry-level jobs within Public Works.	Goal 2: Community Support and Responsiveness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand the existing number of youth participants.	Goal 3: Integrated Services Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore the possibility of collaborating with another County department.	

We will provide progress on the stated goals and objectives, as well as other significant milestones met, with the next annual progress report due June 30, 2015.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Diane Lee McGiffen, Administrative Deputy, at (626) 458-4010 or dmcgiffen@dpw.lacounty.gov.

JT:ad

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
Executive Office